

### **Remarks**

Independent claims 1 and 8 are amended herein, and are believed allowable in light of an Examiner interview conducted on November 17, 2005.

### **Summary of Examiner Interview**

On November 17, 2005, Applicants' representative conducted an interview of Examiner Guill. During the interview, the prior art was discussed, and it was determined that none of the cited prior art discloses an XOR relationship between sub-task graphs. Examiner Guill and his Primary Examiner, Paul L. Rodriguez, indicated that the independent claims, as amended herein, appear allowable.

### **Allowability of claims 1-14**

During the aforementioned telephone interview, it was agreed that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest an XOR relationship between sub-task graphs. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to require that "an XOR relationship exists between at least two of [a] plurality of sub-task graphs." Therefore, in light of this amendment, no combination of the cited prior art arrives at the claimed invention, and the rejection of claims 1-14 should be withdrawn.

### Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of all the pending claims. Although certain arguments were set forth supporting the patentability of the claims, the applicants note there may be other reasons and arguments that the original claims and the amended claims are patentably distinct. The applicants reserve the right to raise any such argument in the future and to pursue any claim scope in the future that is supported by the disclosure set forth in the application.

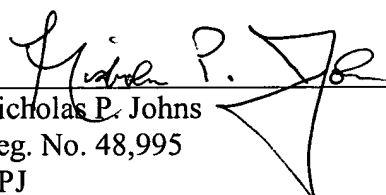
Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 322-5300

Date: 2 Dec. 2005



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas P. Johns  
Reg. No. 48,995  
NPJ